

in fact, at one time FTE, full time equivalent, didn't mean the same thing at UNO as UNL. Now that makes no sense and if this body wants to be in a position to review to really know what is going on, whether the tax funds are being used efficiently and the kind of information basis being requested is what there ought to be but you can always beat the Legislature, defer, put off, ask for another public hearing, and put it off for another year. If you can hold off a couple years you can be sure half of us will be gone or a fourth of us and then we can start over again. I would hope that the offering of this amendment can be a signal to those institutions that the Legislature does expect the kind of information that has been requested, that we don't have to have continuous hearings trying to resolve differences....

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute.

SENATOR WARNER: ...because what they do not want in that information system is essentially information they don't want to provide. Oh, yes, they will tell you we'll give it to you on a written request basis. True, they probably will but it will never be in the same format. You will never be able to establish trends and you will never be able to make a thorough property evaluation of the use of existing funds. So I would hope that the body would not adopt this amendment because in my opinion I know it is not Senator Wiitala's but in my opinion it's sole purpose is one, to delay, defer and continue to make it difficult to make reasonable conclusions as to what level of funding is necessary and appropriate for postsecondary education.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the amendment which is offered with some rather sharp words for the persons who have brought this type of amendment to Senator Wiitala. Senator Wiitala is a very sincere person who is interested in education and I resent that some persons would try to make use of his sincerity by giving this amendment to him. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Wiitala, since 1973 I am aware that this is a great need to have this written in so that everyone sees. We have worked on it as Senator Warner has said since 1976. It is not new. It is not strange and I do not feel it is fair to you that you were given that amendment to bring in. We are all interested in education. We cannot make wise decisions if we do not have a common basis of fact. Each person in this body needs to have accurate information which can be compared and if we continue to be outmaneuvered by various and sundry bodies outside this legislature we cannot make as good decisions as we should do. I urge you to reject this amendment.